National Literacy Mission (NLM) aims at imparting functional literacy to non-literates in 15-35 year age group. Major thrust of this programme is on promotion of literacy among women, members belonging to SCs and STs.

(b) As per Census 2001, female literacy has increased by 14.87 percentage points *i.e.* from 39.29% in 1991 to 54.16% in 2001. The gap in male-female literacy has decreased from 24.84 percentage points in 1991 to 21.69 percentage points in 2001.

Implementation of noon meal scheme by Tamil Nadu

3196. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of implementation of nutritious noon meal scheme by the Government of Tamil Nadu, for the last two decades;

(b) whether Central Government would provide financial assistance for this scheme, which is implemented in several States of the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) Yes, Sir. Tamil Nadu is providing cooked meal to the students of primary classes under the National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid-day Meal Scheme).

(b) and (c) The Central Government is alredy providing foodgrains, free of cost, to the State implementing agencies and also reimbursing admissible transportation charges based on which they are expected to provide meals to the children. There is no proposal at present to provide additional funds to States/UTs.

Culture and values in education

3197. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether two-thirds of the BE of the scheme to strengthen culture and values in education remained unutilized during the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) whether only one agency has received 19 to 27 per cent of the grant under the scheme, during the last two years, despite the agency violating the scheme norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) Yes Sir. due to steep increase in BE from Rs. 50.00 lakhs in 1998-99 to Rs. 500.00 lakhs in 2000-2001 and Rs. 930.00 lakhs in 2001-2002, the full BE could not be utilized mainly for reasons:

— The expected revision of the scheme in the Ninth Plan did not take place and also because the scheme has limited scope covering school and non-formal education only.

— More Non-governmental Organizations with proven track record could not be involved in the scheme. There is a ceiling of Rs. 5.00 lakhs per project. Therefore, bigger projects could not be covered.

(c) No, Sir.

Budget estimate for scholarship

3198. DR. A.R. KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether around 73 per cent of Plan BE sanctioned for scholarships, was not utilised in 2000-2001 and the non-utilisation rate of Plan BE was higher in 2001-2002;

(b) if so, what are the year-wise and programme-wise physical targets which could not be met;

(c) whether the Department has conducted any review meeting to minimise non-utilisation of funds for scholarships; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the National Scholarship Scheme 38,000 scholarships